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EDITORIAL COMMENT



THE RED CROSS

IN a recent number we referred to the reorganization of the Red Cross and of the opportunity for nurses to assist in its work, and promised some further details.

Up to January, 1905, the Red Cross in America was never as thoroughly official, in the way of being directly related with the national government, as the Red Cross national organizations in European countries. It was much looser and more unorganized in its general affairs than, for instance, the wonderfully perfect German Red Cross.

State and city Red Cross societies could, and did, form independently of the national organization under Miss Clara Barton, and, in times of calamity when relief work was undertaken, as at Johnstown, such branch organizations did not fall into place under the direction of Miss Barton and her national committee, but worked independently if they chose so to do. Although it was Miss Barton's wish to secure official government recognition, this was never attained during the period of her presidency. Miss Barton will always be honored for her long life of devotion and untiring labors in times of pestilence and trouble. Her courage and determination were unbounded, and wherever there was great distress she was certain to be on the ground. She went to Armenia during the massacres, and those who know her feel certain that she would be in Russia now if she were still at the head of the Red Cross. Nevertheless, the Red Cross as a national organization did **not** hold the place or command the general support that it should have had,

and every one knows that its methods of accepting workers were often open to much criticism. Miss Barton, who was grounded in the methods of nursing of the time of the Franco-Prussian war, never understood or cared about the modern development of trained nursing, but relied on a volunteer and superficially trained staff, often taking on as "nurses" lay people who had had simply a course in "first aid."

In January, 1905, Congress passed an act creating an organization for the Red Cross under government supervision. Representatives of the Departments of State, War, Navy, Treasury and Justice, one from each department, are by charter provision members of the board of incorporators. The accounts of the society are, by provision of the by-laws, audited by a disbursing officer of the War Department. Secretary Taft is made the president for the ensuing year, and the executive and central committees are composed of men widely known in official, naval, military and civil life.

The special purposes of the organization are:

"To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war, in accordance with the spirit and conditions of the Geneva Convention.

"To continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace, and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods and other great national calamities."

Under the new organization, state societies cannot be formed independently, but the national officers select, by invitation, suitable persons to organize the different states, and each state then becomes an articulated branch of the national society.

There are at present, fifteen states organized and several more in process of organization. All of these fifteen states were represented at the recent meeting in Washington. There are two ways in which nurses can join the Red Cross. One is by paying the annual dues of one dollar and becoming a member of the society in her state. Another is by enrolling for service just as nurses enroll for the army service. Nurses can enroll for service without joining as a member, and becoming a member does not mean that she is enrolled for service. We give below the names of the secretaries of the organized states, to whom nurses may apply, either for membership or enrollment, or both. There will be in each state a nurses' committee, which will pass upon applicants. In New York state this committee includes Miss Keating, Miss Allerton, Miss Maxwell and Miss Delano, and for convenience sake the state is divided into districts, so that a nurse may enroll in her own district. Some states are divided by counties.

The arm-piece or "brassard," consisting of a white band with red cross, may only be worn when on duty under the officers of the Red Cross. No nurse has the right to wear it on any other occasion, nor has any other body the right to give it to her. There are some surgical firms and first aid corporations which have in former years secured legally the use of the red cross as a badge (for instance, Johnson & Johnson), and from these it cannot be taken away; but no one in future can ever obtain this privilege. The laws of all countries rigidly protect the use of the red cross as an emblem reserved to the national societies and their workers on the battle-field, or in the camp or hospital in time of disaster. Secretaries of the organized state branch societies are as follows:

Mrs. Thurlow McMullin, Secretary California Branch, 2200 California Street, San Francisco.

Mrs. Sara T. Kinney, Secretary Connecticut Branch, Box 726, New Haven.

Miss E. P. Bissell, Secretary Delaware Branch, 1404 Franklin Street, Wilmington.

Mr. Gist Blair, Secretary District of Columbia Branch, Corcoran Building, Washington.

Miss Annie Vane Jones, Secretary Georgia Branch, Savannah, Georgia.

Mrs. W. A. Woods, Secretary Indiana Branch, Clayport Hotel, Indianapolis.

Mr. George Norbury Mackenzie, Secretary Maryland Branch, 27 Builders Exchange Building, Baltimore.

Mr. Honore Palmer, Secretary Illinois Branch, 1300 First National Bank Building, Chicago.

Miss Katherine P. Loring, Secretary Massachusetts Branch, Prides Crossing, Massachusetts.

Mr. Charles Moore, Secretary Michigan Branch, 705 Union Trust Building, Detroit.

Mrs. W. K. Draper, Secretary New York State Branch, Bristol Building, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Rev. Dr. John Hewitt, Secretary Ohio Branch, Cumberland Building, Columbus.

Mrs. George A. Main, Secretary Philippine Branch, Manila.

Prof. George Grafton Wilson, Secretary Rhode Island Branch, 15 Westminster Street, Providence.

Mr. George Hoyt Smith, Secretary South Carolina Branch, Charleston.

Miss Winifred W. Woods, Secretary Wyoming Branch, Cheyenne.

We ask for reports from the nurses who are taking an active part in the Red Cross reorganization in all the states.

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION

THE AFFILIATION OF TRAINING-SCHOOLS

THE power of the law is being demonstrated in a very remarkable degree in New York state in the influence it has had in bringing about the affiliation of small general and special training-schools, that their pupils may have the all-round training that the standards set by the regents require.

The Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools has from its inception advocated such affiliation, but as long as each school remained a law unto itself very little progress had been made along those lines.

Under the influence of the New York Nursing Act, schools of all kinds and classes have fallen into line willingly, and cordially in most instances, and such affiliations have not been confined to the schools within the state. The Children's Hospital of Toronto is sending its pupils down to the Manhattan Maternity Hospital, New York, for obstetrical training, in order to meet the Regents' requirements and secure recognition for its graduates working in New York state. The Hospitals at Bridgeport, Connecticut, and Scranton, Pennsylvania, also send pupils to the Manhattan, together with the Presbyterian, New York, the S. R. Smith Infirmary, Staten Island, and the Fox Memorial of Oneonta.

This gives a fair idea of how groups of nurses are being brought together.

The Pierpont Morgan Maternity Hospital draws its nursing service from seventeen different training-schools, five of these being from states outside of New York. The character of the work at this hospital calls for pupils from large hospitals accustomed to the rush and pressure of a big institution.

The New York Infirmary for women and children is depending upon the pupils from other schools for its obstetrical service, drawing from four schools from within the state and from two outside; this school is making every effort to give aid to small schools desiring to meet registration requirements.

The Sloan Maternity has recently decided to take pupils only from schools within the state. This action has come about from the fact that a number of schools had been unable to obtain facilities for obstetrical

experience for their pupils and were for that reason prevented from being registered. Miss Russell and Miss Hutchinson, to facilitate the work of the state registration of training-schools, presented the matter to their board, and it was decided that after six months' notice to those from without the state with which they have long been affiliated, preference will be given to schools from within the state. One school to be cut off is that of the Massachusetts General Hospital at Boston. We understand that the places that the pupils from this school have occupied at the Sloan have already been distributed between the large schools of New York city.

Quite as noticeable are the affiliations being entered into with children's hospitals, and between children's hospitals and general hospitals. The Children's Hospital of Buffalo is now sending all of its pupils to the Buffalo General Hospital for six months' adult and obstetrical experience, and the Woman's Hospital of the same city sends its pupils to the Children's Hospital for three months' experience.

Insane-hospital schools are beginning to affiliate with general and special schools, and there is a general leveling-up process going on that is wonderfully interesting. Conditions are at this stage crude. Perhaps there may be difficulties of which we are not informed, but it is an upward trend which promises better things for the future.

It seems to be the consensus of opinion that the pupils from small schools are, on general principles, lacking in discipline and dispatch, but that they do *finer detail work* than the pupils from the large schools.

Again, we have been told that some of the very finest nurses from every standpoint are from the small schools, demonstrating that discipline in small schools is possible.

We also hear it said that since the affiliations began each class from some of the smaller schools seems to have been given more careful preparation in discipline and technical work, showing that having their pupils compete with those from other hospitals in a great city institution is acting as a stimulant for better teaching in the smaller schools.

But we think the criticism is not to be all toward the small schools. All hospitals are training nurses who are to care for individual patients of every class in their homes, where the character of the detail work means success or failure to the woman who holds the schools' diploma. The attitude of the large schools towards the smaller has always been one of some condescension, but if it is going to be demonstrated that the quality of the detail work is better in the small schools than in the

large, then in just the degree that the small school needs to improve in discipline and develop dispatch, so the large school must look to the quality of the detail instruction that its pupils receive. This will mean more nurses and greater attention to the individual patient.

Out of these affiliations we shall have eventually not only nurses of a broader experience, but nurses of more careful preparation in all of the detail that tends to make them more acceptable to the public. The aim and end of state registration is for the making of better nurses that the people may be better served.

In these first days of affiliation such as we have described, the women in charge of the schools are having much to contend with. The large special hospitals find it difficult to administer the work of their wards with pupils from so many grades of schools. The superintendents sending their pupils to the special hospitals are sensitive of criticism. Sometimes difficulties arise in consequence and each becomes intolerant of the other's point of view, losing sight of the fact that they are helping to solve the greatest of the nursing problems of their time, and allowing personal feeling to shadow the broader educational attitude which they should have towards the whole matter.

Constant friendly conferences between the heads of schools is necessary for the wise solution of the difficulties which must be worked out during these first experimental years. The older women in the work must be watchful of the whole movement, advising and directing those of lesser experience, who may not yet appreciate the significance of a false step.

It would be very helpful at this time if schools would report their affiliations to be published in our department of "Hospital and Training-School Items."

The experience of each would be a benefit to someone else, and success and failures alike should be given publicity.

On January 1, 1906, there were eighty-four New York state schools registered, only about twelve giving a two-years' course, all the others three years.

A CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING-SCHOOLS

The New York Board of Nurse Examiners in conjunction with the special committee on education, authorized by the State Association at the April meeting, have submitted to the Regents (The Educational Department) a curriculum of study for training-schools which will very soon be published for criticism and suggestion.

This is in the form of an outline and syllabus and covers the minimum requirement of the Regents and includes the subjects upon which the full examinations will be based.

This curriculum will not be obligatory in its arrangement of time or subjects, as it is understood that every hospital must consider its peculiar conditions of administration.

The curriculum has been prepared because of the constant requests from schools for a guide in reorganizing to meet the requirements of registration. We shall be able to give it in full in our next issue.

REPORTS OF THE MONTH

The official department contains reports from a number of states showing good work being accomplished.

The Massachusetts nurses will try again this winter to obtain favorable legislation, but they have much to contend with, the principal difficulty being the requirement of two years in a hospital,—a strange sort of an objection to come from under the shadow of a great university like Harvard.

We send greetings to the Massachusetts nurses and say: Hold fast to your standards.

WHAT NURSES ARE DOING

PITTSBURG

THE Alumnae Association of the Homeopathic Hospital has recently carried through a most successful matinee for the benefit of its fund for sick and disabled nurses, by which between fourteen and fifteen hundred dollars was realized.

The Nixon Theatre was engaged for the afternoon of December 27, and Klaw and Erlanger's extravaganza, "The Pearl and the Pumpkin," was given to a crowded house of Pittsburg's best people.

The nurses got up the program, soliciting the advertisements, for which they charged \$50 per page and cleared in that way \$300. They charged \$50 for a box, and \$2 for tickets and used the names of all ladies buying ten tickets or a box as patronesses.

Everything was done in the very best way and the returns have been most gratifying.

BOSTON

The Nurses' Club of the Boston City Hospital gave a fair at the Hotel Vendome just before Christmas, realizing in the neighborhood of \$2500 for the private-room endowment fund for nurses at the City Hospital.

ROCHESTER

The Monroe County Registered Nurses' Association has been taking steps to stimulate the interest of the public in nurses for the public schools. A letter was sent to the mayor, in the early fall, asking his consideration of the matter, and the coöperation of the Woman's Union, the Rochester Physical Education Society, and the Local Council of Women was secured in inviting Miss Lina Rogers, Superintendent of School Nurses in New York, to speak on the subject at the large assembly hall of the East High School, on the evening of January 25.

Medical inspection of public schools in Rochester was secured last year and the nurses' association will push the matter of nurses' inspection.

The association has also aroused agitation on the spitting nuisance, sending letters of protest to the Board of Health, the Police Department and the street railway company because of the non-enforcement of the ordinance making spitting in public places a misdemeanor.

The custom of wearing uniforms in the street has become very prevalent and the association has sent a letter to the hospitals and alumnae associations in the city, expressing its disapproval of this, and asking their support in suppressing it.

The Christmas entertainment for the tuberculosis patients at the Municipal Hospital was provided by thirteen members of the association. Each of the seventeen patients received a basket of fruit; there was music by Mrs. Gilson, assisted by eight of her pupils, and some very amusing monologues given by Miss Schenk, a graduate of the Homeopathic Hospital, who is especially gifted in this way. Miss Phelan, the tuberculosis nurse, Mrs. James Miller and Miss Ida R. Palmer were the nurses who carried the work through.

Those nurses who are constantly making the excuse "I am so busy" will do well to consider the things that equally busy nurses accomplish. The small efforts of a great number produce big results.

JOURNAL DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED

At the Stockholders meeting of the American Journal of Nursing Company held in New York on January 18th, at the Nurses Settlement in Henry Street, the Directors of last year were all re-elected.

At the Directors meeting held the next day at the Westminster Hotel the officers were re-elected.

It was decided to appoint a salaried "Private Nursing Editor" who will devote her entire time to papers dealing exclusively with the work of private nurses, and Miss M. E. P. Davis was made business manager to devote her entire time for the present to the broader development of the JOURNAL's business interests. These two additions to the JOURNAL's staff of regular workers cannot fail to make our JOURNAL much more valuable to the great nursing body, especially to those in the field of private nursing.

We shall hope, with a woman of noted reputation as a private nurse at the head of that department, that other private nurses will get into the habit of writing about their work for publication in our pages.

"A NEW CRANFORD"

WE regret very much that for the present Miss McIsaac has discontinued her very interesting sketches of "A New Cranford."

She has partly promised, however, to give a second series at some future day, after the experimental stage of the farm has passed, when she hopes to have more leisure in which to use her pen for the benefit and amusement of her profession.

The first volume of the sketches is being printed in attractive form with illustrations, and will be for sale and also be used for subscription prizes by the JOURNAL. We shall be able to make a definite announcement in regard to the price in our next number.

OUR ADVERTISING PAGES

RECENTLY an advertisement appeared in our "Wants" department for a Superintendent for a certain hospital. We learn from the chairman of the board that he received from this advertisement one

hundred and fifty applications for the position, and that from among them a very satisfactory selection has been made.

We also learn that many of the applicants sending bulky testimonials made no provision for them to be returned.

This illustration certainly demonstrates the value of our advertising pages to hospitals needing the services of nurses in any official position.

Nurses should watch our Book Reviews department for the announcement of new books on nursing subjects. We are constantly receiving letters from our readers asking to have books on special subjects recommended. Our reviewing editor, Miss Cameron, gives a frank opinion upon the value to nurses of each book she comments upon, and all books on nursing subjects are sure to come into her hands as the leading writers and publishers of nursing books are becoming very solicitous of the JOURNAL's endorsement. The Book Reviews department grows in value month by month.

THE REPORT FROM THE HOSPITAL ECONOMICS COURSE

MISS ALLINE's report of the progress being made in the Hospital Economics course is found in the Official department, and is very interesting.

The generous response of the nurses of the country last year has made it possible to develop the work in a most satisfactory manner and we have not been called upon to appeal again to them for funds to carry on the work this winter.

Money will be needed another year, however, and regular contributions from organizations and individuals are very necessary and should not be forgotten.

DOCK'S MATERIA MEDICA

Miss Dock has revised her "Materia Medica for Nurses," assisted by Miss Bean, a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Training-School.

It is for sale by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. When schools are ordering in quantity it is usually much cheaper to deal directly with the publishing house.

TWO POINTS OF VIEW

WE announced in our last number that we should publish in this issue a description of the American Tuberculosis Exhibit by Miss E. N. La Motte, of Baltimore. We requested Miss Annie Damer to also send us notes on the exhibit, knowing that the most valuable part of the work had been planned and arranged by her, intending to cull from her notes some points to emphasize editorially.

We found Miss Damer's notes so very interesting, her point of view so inspires one with courage and enthusiasm, that we give them in full as a supplement to Miss La Motte's more official report of the exhibit, although both papers cover practically the same ground.

Written by two such well-known women upon a subject of such vital concern to nurses everywhere, we feel that we need not apologize to our readers, for this duplication of subjects.

A COLLABORATOR FOR NORTH CAROLINA

WE are glad to announce that Miss M. L. Whyche has consented to represent the JOURNAL in North Carolina. Miss Whyche is the President of the North Carolina State Nurses Association and Secretary of the Nurses Board of Examiners.

